

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION  
EDITED BY PETER C. PETERSEN, JR.



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## CONTENTS

CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS .....	3-12
CONVENTION AT IOWA CITY .....	12
IOWA BANDING SUMMARY-1965 .....	13-15
PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN BUCHANAN COUNTY .....	15-17
FIELD REPORTS .....	17-24
GENERAL NOTES .....	24-27
OBITUARY .....	28
BOOK REVIEWS .....	28-31
DID YOU KNOW? .....	32
NEST RECORD PROGRAM .....	32

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The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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## THE 1965 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS IN IOWA

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The 238 participants in the 1965 count compares with 245 for the year before, both figures disregarding the fact that some took part in more than one census, but the total species count of 110 is an all-time high, and 2 more than the 1964 total. Davenport with 40 observers reporting 72 species was high in both departments. They also had the find of the year, a Greater Black-backed Gull at Moline, Illinois, a species which has heretofore been only on the hypothetical list for Iowa. Another rarity at census time is the Eared Grebe at Cedar Rapids which also appeared on the census list for the first time. The Turkey Vulture, seen in 1960 for the first time, was again reported.

The Common Redpoll, which had been reported in only half of the previous 28 counts, and with only 2 counted last year, made a remarkable showing with 16 stations counting 1,052 of the species. Pine Siskins were relatively numerous with 156, a number approached in recent years only in 1963. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is another winter visitant which was frequently seen after being scarce the year before. A White-winged Crossbill made only the fourth appearance of this species since the start of these counts.

Both Long- and Short-eared Owls were down compared with previous two years, and the Saw-whet, which had been found in 22 of 28 years, is missing this time. Red-shouldered Hawks hit what could very well be an all-time low when only 9 were reported from 5 stations. The average for the immediately preceding five years was 31.6 per year.

Two species of ducks have performed in an odd fashion over the years; the Gadwall was reported in 1940 and 1952, then was missed for 10 years but has been included in the past three counts, and the American Widgeon was missing for 8 years before reappearing in 1964 and 1965. Several of the passerines also have had unusual records. The Loggerhead Shrike failed to appear in any of the 18 tabulations prior to 1955, but has been recorded each year since then which suggests that all shrikes in the earlier years were arbitrarily assigned to the Northern genus. Similarly, the Brown-headed Cowbird which failed to appear until 1955 has been shown in all subsequent years except 1956 and 1959. The possible answer to this is not so obvious. Brewer's Blackbird made its first appearance in 1960 and has been included each year since, but only in one or two places in any one year.

1. AKRON (5-mile circle near Bryant Farm, 9 miles east of Akron). Dec. 25; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 20-30°; wind 5 m.p.h. from NW. Clear to partly cloudy, 1 inch loose snow on ground. Observer (1) Eldon J. Bryant.

2. ALEDO, ILLINOIS (western half of Mercer County, Illinois, extending across Mississippi River into Louisa County, Iowa.) Jan. 2; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 34-41°; wind 20 m.p.h. from WNW. Cloudy. No snow on ground, streams all open. Observers (13) in 5 parties: Bruce and Wendell Bergstrom, Adolph Cabor, Allan Carlson, Elton Fawks, Richard and Theodore Greer, Mr. and Mrs. Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Jimmy, Marjie and Robert Trial, Johnny White.

Evening Grosbeak was observed at such close range that binoculars were unnecessary.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

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Species	1990										1991										1992										1993										1994										1995										1996										1997										1998										1999										2000										2001										2002										2003										2004										2005										2006										2007										2008										2009										2010										2011										2012										2013										2014										2015										2016										2017										2018										2019										2020										2021										2022										2023										2024										2025										2026										2027										2028										2029										2030										2031										2032										2033										2034										2035										2036										2037										2038										2039										2040										2041										2042										2043										2044										2045										2046										2047										2048										2049										2050										2051										2052										2053										2054										2055										2056										2057										2058										2059										2060										2061										2062										2063										2064										2065										2066										2067										2068										2069										2070										2071										2072										2073										2074										2075										2076										2077										2078										2079										2080										2081										2082										2083										2084										2085										2086										2087										2088										2089										2090										2091										2092										2093										2094										2095										2096										2097										2098										2099										2100										2101										2102										2103										2104										2105										2106										2107										2108										2109										2110										2111										2112										2113										2114										2115										2116										2117										2118										2119										2120										2121										2122										2123										2124										2125										2126										2127										2128										2129										2130										2131										2132										2133										2134										2135										2136										2137										2138										2139										2140										2141										2142										2143										2144										2145										2146										2147										2148										2149										2150										2151										2152										2153										2154										2155										2156										2157										2158										2159										2160										2161										2162										2163										2164										2165										2166										2167										2168										2169										2170										2171										2172										2173										2174										2175										2176										2177										2178										2179										2180										2181										2182										2183										2184										2185										2186										2187										2188										2189										2190										2191										2192										2193										2194										2195										2196										2197										2198										2199										2200										2201										2202										2203										2204										2205										2206										2207										2208										2209										2210										2211										2212										2213										2214										2215										2216										2217										2218										2219										2220										2221										2222										2223										2224										2225										2226										2227										2228										2229										2230										2231										2232										2233										2234										2235										2236										2237										2238										2239										2240										2241										2242										2243										2244										2245										2246										2247										2248										2249										2250										2251										2252										2253										2254										2255										2256										2257										2258										2259										2260										2261										2262										2263										2264										2265										2266										2267										2268										2269										2270										2271										2272										2273										2274										2275										2276										2277										2278										2279										2280										2281										2282										2283										2284										2285										2286										2287										2288										2289										2290										2291										2292										2293										2294										2295										2296										2297										2298										2299										2300										2301										2302										2303										2304										2305										2306										2307										2308										2309										2310										2311										2312										2313										2314										2315										2316										2317										2318										2319										2320										2321										2322										2323										2324										2325										2326										2327										2328										2329										2330										2331										2332										2333										2334										2335										2336										2337										2338										2339										2340										2341										2342										2343										2344										2345										2346				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See Data under station in body of article	No estimate made of numbers in flocks seen	Total Iowa List.....
110	110	110



3. AMES (7½ mile radius from Ames). Dec. 23; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 46-55°F; wind 6-14 m.p.h. from SE in a.m., NW in p.m. Overcast, ground bare, drizzle in the morning, streams free of ice, some on ponds. Observer (1) Richard Knight.

4. BUFFALO CENTER (15 mile diameter circle with center 4 miles E-SE of Buffalo Center to include Myre Slough and Coon Grove). Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 20-30°; wind 6-12 m.p.h. from W. Overcast a.m. and p.m. Light snow cover, snow flurries and sleeting a.m. and p.m. Observers (4) in 2 parties: Dr. James O. and Tim C. Moermond, Mike Orthel, Barton Sutter.

5. BURLINGTON (15 mile diameter circle centering at Flint Hills Golf Course—same as previous years). Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 22-32°; wind 8-10 m.p.h. from S. Overcast to partly overcast; three inches of snow, no ice on Mississippi. Observers (14) in 4 parties: Myrtle Bjork, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Mrs. Edwin Helm, Harold Linder, Mrs. Ory and Peter Lowther, Jack McLane, Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Nieman, Ted Nieman, Sue Worth.

Pigeon Hawk was tentatively identified as a Sparrow Hawk on census day, but was positively identified when seen again on 1 January. Ruby-crowned Kinglet identification was certain.

6. CEDAR FALLS (Black Hawk Park, Snag Creek, Falls Access, Beaver Creek, Wyth Park, Cedar Heights, Sans Souci, Black Hawk Creek, and other Cedar River Areas, Washington, Martin and Byrnes Parks; Goose Lake). Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 10-20°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. from W. Clear; traces of snow on ground, ponds frozen, streams half frozen. Observers (5) in 2 parties: Martin L. Grant (compiler), Annette Haffner, Russell Hays, Nick Osness, Florence Velie.

Broad-winged Hawk (first winter record for the County) seen clearly at 100 feet, both flying and perched. Red breast bars and wide white tail bars noted.

7. CEDAR RAPIDS (within a circle with a fifteen mile diameter, center of which was the Federal Bldg. in downtown Cedar Rapids). Jan. 2; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 24-43°; wind 10-12 m.p.h. from SSW. Heavy rain followed by snow which melted soon. Observers (21) in 6 parties: Cedric Anderson, Byron Arnold, Dr. and Mrs. R. V. Drexler, Dr. and Mrs. Karl Goellner, Mrs. J. T. Grayston, Miss Margaret Lahr, Mrs. Robert Liljedahl, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Pattee, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Petranek, Miss Ruth Purdy, Miss Rose Richards, Miss Lillian Serbousek, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Robert S. Vane, Miss Myra G. Willis, Aldrich Zobac.

8. CLINTON (7½ mi. radius centered ½ mile S. Elk River Jct., Iowa, same as most previous years). Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 10-17°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. from NW. Clear, ground covered with 5" drifted snow, river 80% ice covered. Observers (6) in 2 parties: Larry Dau, Fred, Jim and Maurice Leshner, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen, Jr. (compiler).

Turkeys feed tamely near the road and roost in farmyards near out-buildings—seen five miles NE of Fulton, Illinois.

9. DAVENPORT (7½ mile radius of toll house of Memorial Bridge, same as in previous years). Dec 26; 3:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 16-27°F; wind 6-12 m.p.h. from SE to W. Partly cloudy, ground covered with 4" drifted snow,



river open with slush ice. Observers (40) in 21 parties: Steve Aupperle, Carl Bengston, Lewis Blevins, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Cabor, Harry Carl, Allen Carlson, Larry Dau, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dau, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, Dale Dickinson, Leo Doering, Elton Fawks, Tom Frank, Carol and Howard Frink, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gold, Dorothy Hall, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Hazard, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Petersen, Sr., Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Don Price, Fritz Reuter, Frank Rodl, E. W. Sprague, Urban Stratman, Joe Tracy, Bob Trial, Norman Ward, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wood.

Harlan's Hawk—all field marks noted, seen in good light, Frinks. Greater Black-backed Gull seen in company of Herring Gulls at Moline, closely observed (AC, FR).

10. DECORAH (NE corner Sec. 24, T99N, R8W; river and creek bottoms 60%, fields 20%, city 5%, coniferous plantings 2%, farmyards 6%, pastures 7%). Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 19-40°; wind 9-13 m.p.h. from SE. Clear, no snow cover, all waters open. Observers (14) in 4 parties: Mrs. Florence Albright, R. W. Daubendiek, Gus Heuser, George Knudson, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Donna and Mrs. Merlin Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rohm, Russell Rulon, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schultz.

11. DES MOINES (Imp. Res., Walnut Woods, Waterworks Park, Glendale Cem., Crocker Woods, Flint Access, Fisher's Lake, Camp Dodge, Sycamore Park, Brenton's Slough, Pinehill Cem.). Dec. 26; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 17-30°; wind 10 m.p.h. from S. Partly cloudy in a.m., cloudy in p.m., 2 inches fresh snow. Reservoir open. Observers (17) in 4 parties: Dorothy Anderson, Larry Atherton, Mrs. Stanley Atherton, Albert Berkowitz, Bill Boller, Woodward Brown, Oliver Graves, Gladys Haskell, Dave Hurd, Joe Kennedy, Mrs. Russell Nicholson, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, Mary Elizabeth Peck, Mrs. Tom Pettit, Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor, Mary Ellen Wartens.

Yellow-headed Blackbird well observed by three observers.

12. DUBUQUE (Linwood Cemetery, City Island, Dubuque's Grave, City Airport, Durango, River Sloughs in Wisconsin). Jan. 1; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 25-38°; wind 2-5 m.p.h. from E. Clear and bright, muddy ground. Observers (8) in 2 parties: George and Frieda Crossley, Howard Higley, Jr., Joan Higley, Howard Higley 3rd, Delbert Ludwig, Ival Schuster, Phyllis Shultz.

13. ESTHERVILLE (All points within a 15-mile circle, center east edge of Estherville, to include West Swan Lake, Ryan Lake, High Lake, Ingham Lake, Christopherson's Slough, Swan Lake, Cemetery at Superior). Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 20-50°; wind 0-5 m.p.h. from SW. NE. No snow, waters partially frozen. Observers (5) in 2 parties: Mrs. B. A. LaDoux, Mrs. Henry Larsen, Henry Larsen, Mrs. J. B. Osher (compiler), Fred Wolden.

All Ruby-crowned Kinglets were together and observed at six feet by Fred Wolden. Eye-ring clearly seen in each case. Other birds in same tree may have been Ruby-crowned also, but identity not certain.

14. HAWARDEN (area same as previous years). Dec. 29; 8:30 a.m. to 4.50 p.m. Temp. 25-40°; wind calm. Foggy early, clear and perfect day later, no snow, rivers open. Observer (1): Ron Muilenburg.

15. IOWA CITY (15 mile circle (center near N. Liberty) including Iowa City, Coralville Reservoir, and Lake Macbride). Dec. 23; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 42-58°; wind SE from 0-10 m.p.h. Cloudy, ground bare, river and Res-

ervoir open, ponds frozen. Observers (9) in 2 parties: J. A. Clifton, Sr., Seddie Cogswell, S. Jack Davis, Lee Eberly, M. L. Huit, Robert Hulbary, F. W. Kent and Robert Kent, Dr. Peter Werner.

16. JEFFERSON (area within a 7½ mile radius centered on highway 30 5 miles west of Jefferson, includes Goose Lake, Dunbar Slough). Dec. 23; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 42°; wind 15 m.p.h. from W. Overcast, light rain, ground clear, all rivers and creeks open, Goose Lake and Dunbar Slough 90% ice covered. Observers (2) in 1 party: Dave Bucklin, John Faaborg.

Snowy Owl was seen west of Dunbar Slough, good view. All the Short-eared Owls were together in a large field of brome-grass.

17. JESUP (Cutshaw Access, Buffington Bridge, Otterville Hunting Access, Stone Quarry #1, Spring Creek, Amish Farmland). Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Temp. 24-52°; wind 5 m.p.h. from South. Clear—no snow, ponds, river and creek mostly open. Observers (4) in party, 3 in field and 1 at feeders: Mrs. Ronald Barnett, Mrs. Lloyd Hewitt, Mrs. K. A. Velie, and Mrs. Duane Williams.

Redpolls were sighted in three widely spaced areas, one flock of 100 and one of 70. Flocks of from 8 to 60 seen several times during the period.

18. LAMONI (Part of 15 miles diameter circle covering roadsides, farmyards, farm lands, woods, Graceland College campus, Nine Eagles Park and 1 feeding station). Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 40-60; wind 10-20 m.p.h. from S. Cloudy a.m., clear p.m., ground bare, all water open. Observers (9) in 4 parties: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Paul Elswick, Bill, Jim, and J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Dr. R. H. Mortimore, Michael Silver, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

19. MARSHALLTOWN (15 miles radius of Marshalltown). Jan. 1; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 30-40°; wind 5-20 m.p.h. from NW. Sunny in a.m. and rain and drizzle in p.m.—light snow in places. Observers (13) in 4 parties: Wayne Britten, Mrs. Peter Drury, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Glasgow, Mrs. L. R. Grimes, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lawrence, Mrs. John Mowry, Mrs. N. P. Nessel, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Prescott, and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart.

20. MUSCATINE (7½ mile radius of Lock and Dam 16, same as in previous years). Dec. 24; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 33-45°; wind 10-40 m.p.h., from NE. Rain changing to snow in late afternoon, ground bare, river open with slush ice. Observers (9) in 3 parties: Allen Carlson, Larry Dau, Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter Petersen, Jr. (compiler), Robert Trial, Norman Ward, Jr.

21. OGDEN (6 mile radius around home; roadsides, pastures, creek bottoms, fields and woods). Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Temp. 30-48°; wind 8 m.p.h. from SW. Mostly clear, warm; creek mostly open; no snow. Observer: Jim Keenan.

22. SHENANDOAH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, centering at Farragut to include the Riverton area). Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 43-61°; wind 10-15 m.p.h. from S. Morning clear, p.m. cloudy; ground clear, all water open. Observers (5) in 3 parties: Mrs. Robert I. Bordner, Mrs. F. M. Braley (compiler), Don Burrichter, Mrs. E. C. Vaughn, Mrs. Don Walters.

23. SIOUX CITY (area within a 15 mile diameter circle, center the Municipal Auditorium, also Brown's, Brower's and New Lakes). Jan. 2; 8:00

a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 17-25°; wind 25 m.p.h. from NW. Cloudy a.m., clear p.m. with less wind, ground bare of snow, Missouri River open. Observers (15) in 6 parties: Mrs. W. W. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Davison, Robert DeLoss, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. George Marsh and Margaret, Robert Nickolson, Garland Roose, Ruth Sampson, Gertrude Weaver.

Mr. and Mrs. Davison observed the Ruby-crowned Kinglet at a range of 10-15 feet. Numbers of Starlings and House Sparrows estimated from observations made at their night roosts.

24. TITONKA (2077 acre waterfowl refuge 5½ miles west of Titonka; marsh and water 50%; upland grasslands and mixed elm, cottonwood, willow, oak thickets 40%; croplands 10%). Dec. 21; 7:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 28-34°; wind 10-15 m.p.h. from NW. Cloudy till 3 p.m.—then clear, snow on ground in a.m.; refuge pools 75% ice cover. Observers (2) in 1 party: Al Buchanan, Paul E. Ferguson.

25. WATERLOO (All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sec. 2, Maxfield Twp., Bremer County, to include Seven Bridges Park, Sweet Marsh Refuge, Plum Creek, Crane Creek, farmlands 50%, woodlands 50%). Jan. 2; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 30-34°; wind 0 to 40 m.p.h. from SE to NW. Variable; misty rain changing to heavy snow from NW at 9 a.m.; at 11 a.m. snow stopped, clouds breaking, sun shining late afternoon, cloudy and cold wind from NW, light snow cover, streams open. Observers (8) in 1 party: Myrle M. Burk (compiler), Antoinette Camarata, Martin L. Grant, Annette Haffner, Russell Hays, John, Lois and Nick Osness.

26. WINTHROP (Roadsides on four sides of Winthrop and a drive through Backbone State Park, Buchanan and Delaware Counties). Dec. 26; 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 25-28°; wind light from SE. Clear to partly cloudy; 1 in. snow (fell Christmas eve) in sheltered places; streams open. Observers (2) in 1 party: Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce.

27. WORTH COUNTY (7½ mile radius from center of Elk Creek Marsh—including ¼ marsh, ¼ stream, ¼ undeveloped upland, and ¼ farmland). Dec. 27; 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 5-9°; wind 0-6 m.p.h. from SE; fair, trace of old snow on ground, marsh and stream 90% ice covered. Observers (5) in 1 party: Rockney Bridges, Devere Burt, Richard Knight, Wayne Porath, Tom Whittaker.

28. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (NE corner Sec. 8, T96N, R3W; Miss. River and bluffs 30%, streams and woods 30%, fields and pastures 20%, marsh 5%, roads 5%, towns and farmyards 10%). Jan. 2; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 25-33°; wind 15-25 m.p.h. from W. Snow a.m., cloudy p.m., 1-3 in. snow cover, all waters open. Observers (4) in 2 parties: Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Daubendiek, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Mrs. Merlin Koenig.

#### ADDITIONAL BIRD NOTES WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE CENSUSES

Akron.—Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl and Common Crow were seen during the census period.

Buffalo Center.—The number of Rough-legged Hawks is lower than in past years as spotting conditions were markedly poorer this year. There has been a continuing decrease in the pheasant population which dropped from 1106 in 1961 to 216 in 1962, 194 in 1963, 60 in 1964, and 13 this year. It is feared this decrease, if unchecked, will lead to the virtual eradication of the species from the area.



Burlington.—Other species seen during the census period: Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, meadowlark (sp.), Rusty Blackbird, and Pine Siskin.

Cedar Rapids.—Marsh Hawk, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Meadowlark and Evening Grosbeak were seen during the period.

Davenport.—During the census period Pintail, Osprey, Mockingbird and Snow Bunting were observed.

Decorah.—Killdeer was the other species seen during the period.

Des Moines.—Sparrow Hawk, Brown Thrasher, W. Meadowlark, and Evening Grosbeak were seen but not on census day.

Dubuque.—Sparrow Hawk was also seen during the census period.

Estherville.—Western Meadowlark, not included in census but seen in the count period.

Iowa City.—Rough-legged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Mockingbird and Purple Finch were also seen during the census period.

Jefferson.—Each trip to either Dunbar Slough or Goose Lake turned up Redpolls, and each time more were found. Mourning Dove, Robin and Meadowlark (sp.) are other species seen during the census period.

Jesup.—Horned Larks have never been so scarce. A male Marsh Hawk was observed during the period.

Lamoni.—During the census period there were seen: Screech Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Cedar Waxwing. A very windy day caused the birds to lie low and made them hard to find on census day. Short-eared Owls have not been seen this fall or winter.

Marshalltown.—A distinct shortage of all species of hawks in the area.

Shenandoah.—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Grackle, Common Redpoll and White-crowned Sparrow are other species present during the period.

Titonka.—Mourning Dove, Red-headed Woodpecker, Horned Lark and Starling were seen during the period but not on census day.

Winthrop.—A Robin was seen on 31 December but not on census day. "This was my 46th annual Christmas bird count in eastern Iowa; took my first one in 1920 and have never missed a year (yet!).

Worth Co.—Rough-legged Hawk and Long-eared Owl were other species seen during the census period.

A trip from Farley to Pine Hollow and the Forest Preserve by Frieda and George Crossley on 27 December resulted in the following observations: Red-tailed Hawk, 3; Mourning Dove, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 6; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 9; Horned Lark, 43; Blue Jay, 13; Common Crow, 9; Black-capped Chickadee, 13; Tufted Titmouse, 7; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Winter Wren, 1; Starling, 72; House Sparrow, 307; Cardinal, 17; American Goldfinch, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 17; Tree Sparrow, 108.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold B. Brown and Mrs. Eldon Hasbrook drove from Grundy Center to Union Grove Lake, Gladbrook on 1 January, and saw the

following: Mallard, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 6; Marsh Hawk, 1; Pheasant, 2; Flicker, 2; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 4; Horned Lark, 24; Blue Jay, 6; Crows (fields black with them); Chickadee, 12; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 2; Starlings, 75 plus; House Sparrow, 100 plus; E. Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 12; Redpoll, 6; Goldfinch, 18; Slate-colored Junco, 17; Tree Sparrow, 22.

**Notes from Myrle and Margaret Jones**—Like an old fire horse that hears the fire bell, we felt we had to be off on a bird count during Christmas vacation. I have participated in the Christmas bird count for 35 years. Mrs. Jones has been with me on most of the trips and we joined Fred Pierce for a trip to the Backbone State Park for most of these years.

I spent 90 minutes in bed—not sick, just lazy and comfortable—and counted 27 species of birds coming to our bird baths and feeders or flying over here at Dover, Arkansas. Included in this list are the following:

Bob-white, 12; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 3; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1; Y-bell. Sapsucker, 1; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 5; Crow, 20; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 3; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Carolina Wren, 2; Mockingbird, 1; Robin, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 6; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Pine Warbler, 1; House Sparrow, 1; Cardinal, 8; Am. Goldfinch, 26; Towhee, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 20; Field Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 20; Lincoln Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1. Total—150 individuals; 27 species.

After 9:30 we drove a few local side roads adding a few individual birds but no new species. After an early lunch we drove to Russellville where we found a large flock of meadowlarks within the city limits in a stubble field bordering the lake. Our visit to the Federal Refuge added 200 Mallards and one lone Spotted Sandpiper that we had not expected to find around here at this time. All together the Refuge birds and roadside birds gave us 17 additional species.

Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Mallard, 210; Turkey Vulture, 3; Red-tailed Hawk, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 2; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Ring-billed Gull, 1; Mourning Dove, 33; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Shrike, 7; Starling, 8; E. Meadowlark, 49; Red-winged Blackbird, 500 (est.); White-crowned Sparrow, 3; Fox Sparrow, 1.

Other birds seen recently or heard in our own back yard and woods, but not appearing for roll-call today, are Pileated Woodpecker, Roadrunner, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Chipping Sparrow, and hybrid White-throated Sparrow Slate-colored Junco.

The Roadrunner has furnished us with more entertainment than any other bird unless it be the Yellow-breasted Chat, which was here when we came in July, even peeking in the windows at us. It could be heard at all hours even at times in the night. (They seem to leave early for further south having been last seen here August 27). We have watched the Roadrunner at close range for an hour and a half at one time. We can tell when they are near by their "beak rattle" and by their dove like coo. It also seems strange having big flocks of White-throated Sparrows all winter just like during fall migration in Iowa.

This is the first place I have ever had the birds hull their own oats. Always they would waste the oats in mixed feed unless it was "cut" by a hammermill (grinding was not good as it produced too much flour). The abundance of wild berries complicates attracting birds to the feeding shelf. Early

in the fall it was very dry and water helped concentrate the birds to our "refuge", but the recent rains have caused the springs to revive and water is abundant in the rocky stream 100 feet from our house. The easiest natural food to obtain for the feeding shelf is hickory nuts. We find gallons of them lying everywhere—unclaimed by the squirrels. They are not suitable for human consumption (bitter) but the birds love them.

## CONVENTION AT IOWA CITY

May 13 - 15, 1966

The officers of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union extend a cordial invitation to all members and guests to attend the 44th annual convention of the society to be held in Iowa City May 13, 14 and 15, 1966. Headquarters of the meeting will be at the new Memorial Union of the University of Iowa which is continuous with Iowa House, the new hotel facility of the University. A block of rooms has been reserved at Iowa House, and members should make their own reservations stating that they are attending the Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting.

The convention will open Friday evening with an informal reception in the University of Iowa Natural History Museum in Macbride Hall. Opportunities will be afforded to see the excellent bird exhibits which contain some of the finest bird mountings in the country. A member of the museum staff will be on hand.

Saturday morning, May 14, registration will open in the Big 10 lounge of the Memorial Union. Morning and afternoon sessions of papers, slides and motion pictures will be presented in the Illinois room. A fine program is being arranged. As of this date, the speakers will include F. W. Kent with an "Introduction to the Iowa City Area"; Dr. Martin Grant, "Bird Life in Southern Asia"; and Dr. Milton Weller, "Breeding Biology of the Parasitic Black-Headed Duck." Mrs. Gladys Black will present "Values of a Bluebird Trail," Joe Brown, "Feathers in the Paint Pot"; and the Vanes will show a motion picture, "Winter Birding." Final arrangements are also being made with other program participants.

Luncheon may be had at a cafeteria within the Union. Following the afternoon paper session, an I.O.U. business meeting will be held in the Lucas-Dodge room, also within the Union building. The annual banquet will be held in the Hawkeye room at 6 o'clock that evening. The guest speaker will be Dr. Walter J. Breckenridge, Director of the Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota. His picture and talk will be "Sand Country Wildlife."

Sunday morning field trips will leave from the Iowa Memorial Union at staggered times going to such excellent birding areas as Lake Macbride State Park, the Conesville marshes, and the Coralville and Swan Lake areas. Following the field trips a luncheon and compilation meeting will be held.

By mid-April members will receive a detailed program together with additional housing information for those who may not wish to stay at Iowa House. Chairman of the local arrangements is F. W. Kent of Iowa City, and program chairman is Mrs. Darrell Hanna of Sioux City. The Audubon Naturalist Society of Cedar Rapids will be the official hosts for the meeting, which promises to be one of the finest in recent years. Plan now to attend.—ROBERT F. VANE, President, Iowa Ornithologists' Union.



## IOWA BIRD BANDING SUMMARY FOR 1965

DEAN M. ROOSA  
GOLDFIELD, IOWA

Iowa banders continue to be active and turn up with interesting records. Editor Pete Petersen, Jr., Davenport, again led all individual banders with 5205 individuals of 146 species. Second were the Rineharts, Marshalltown, and Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa, were third.

Some banders are working on interesting projects. Consider the time spent by Robert Paulson, who recently moved to East Lansing, in banding and colormarking 790 nestling Black-crowned Night Herons. Also the time spent by Gladys Black in observing 316 nests and 60 Bluebird boxes. She has some interesting data on nest predation and fertility and it is hoped that she will publish this. Mrs. DeLong has begun a study on wintering Harris' Sparrows in her area. Jim Grier, now of U. of Wis., is doing a study of migration and weather, as well as research on raptors, especially Bald Eagles in northern Ontario, Canada. Several banders have concentrated on Bluebirds and banded 341, mostly nestlings. It is good to see this bird making a strong comeback.

The Pileated Woodpeckers, banded by Pete Petersen, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, banded by Jim Grier, the White-winged Crossbill, by Dr. Burk and John Moeding, and the Eared Grebes by the Cons. Comm., made their first appearance on Iowa banding results.

In terms of individuals of a species banded, think of the time spent in Pete Petersen's banding of 618 Juncos, 312 White-throated Sparrows, 204 Fox Sparrows or 344 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, or the Diggs 169 Tree Sparrows or the Rineharts 668 Juncos and 241 White throated Sparrows, to mention just a few. Much time is represented in these 13,495 birds. Some interesting observations in terms of relative abundance of different species within Iowa, can be made by study of these banding results. Also interesting research possibilities present themselves.

Following is a list of banders and the number of species and individuals they banded in Iowa in 1965:

Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa .....	85	1284
Gladys Black, Pleasantville .....	63	920
Eugene Brady, Perry .....	3	31
Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo .....	32	163
Conservation Commission, Des Moines .....	20	6928
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Shenandoah .....	60	511
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg .....	57	739
Mr. Paul E. Ferguson, Union Slough, Titonka .....	15	817
Kenneth Formanek, Bellevue State Park .....	30	145
Jim Grier, Univ. of Wisc. Madison .....	60	363
Mr. and Mrs. Myrle Jones, Dover, Arkansas .....	18	42
Rev. Kay V. Mills, Goldfield .....	13	36
John Moeding, Manson .....	4	20
Robert Paulson, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing .....	50	1205
Peter C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport .....	146	5205
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown .....	94	1925
Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield .....	15	89
	181	20,423

## BIRDS Banded in Iowa in 1965

Eared Grebe.....	26	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	12
Pied-billed Grebe .....	2	Hairy Woodpecker .....	27
Double-crested Cormorant .....	1	Downy Woodpecker .....	173
Green Heron .....	3	Eastern Kingbird .....	13
Black-crowned Night Heron....	791	Western Kingbird .....	11
Least Bittern .....	2	Crested Flycatcher .....	8
Canada Goose .....	32	Eastern Phoebe .....	80
Mallard .....	618	Say's Phoebe .....	20
Black Duck .....	1	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	69
Gadwall .....	1	Acadian Flycatcher .....	20
Pintail .....	7	Trail's Flycatcher .....	38
Green-winged Teal .....	62	Least Flycatcher .....	90
Blue-winged Teal .....	4536	Unidentified Epidonax Flyc. ....	26
Shoveler .....	5	Eastern Wood Pewee .....	28
Wood Duck .....	1044	Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	7
Redhead .....	44	Horned Lark .....	5
Ring-necked Duck .....	1	Tree Swallow .....	4
Ruddy Duck .....	2	Bank Swallow .....	166
Turkey Vulture .....	2	Rough-winged Swallow .....	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk .....	14	Barn Swallow .....	151
Red-tailed Hawk .....	20	Cliff Swallow .....	1
Red-shouldered Hawk .....	2	Purple Martin .....	6
Broad-winged Hawk .....	2	Blue Jay .....	263
Swainson's Hawk .....	2	Common Crow .....	14
Marsh Hawk .....	1	Black-capped Chickadee .....	168
Sparrow Hawk .....	29	Tufted Titmouse .....	43
Bobwhite .....	2	White-breasted Nuthatch .....	71
Ring-necked Pheasant .....	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch .....	34
Virginia Rail .....	15	Brown Creeper .....	116
Sora .....	11	House Wren .....	236
Common Gallinule .....	12	Winter Wren .....	20
American Coot .....	293	Carolina Wren .....	1
Killdeer .....	5	Long-billed Marsh Wren .....	2
American Woodcock .....	4	Short-billed Marsh Wren .....	1
Spotted Sandpiper .....	1	Mockingbird .....	7
Solitary Sandpiper .....	3	Catbird .....	396
Pectoral Sandpiper .....	1	Brown Thrasher .....	275
Least Sandpiper .....	2	Robin .....	456
Mourning Dove .....	1087	Wood Thrush .....	13
Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	5	Hermit Thrush .....	77
Black-billed Cuckoo .....	17	Swainson's Thrush .....	217
Screech Owl .....	28	Gray-cheeked Thrush .....	44
Great Horned Owl .....	6	Veery .....	22
Barred Owl .....	6	Eastern Bluebird .....	341
Long-eared Owl .....	2	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	2
Saw-whet Owl .....	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet .....	172
Whip-poor-will .....	7	Ruby-crowned Kinglet .....	468
Common Nighthawk .....	11	Cedar Waxwing .....	77
Chimney Swift .....	7	Loggerhead Shrike .....	10
Ruby-throated Hummingbird..	10	Starling .....	26
Belted Kingfisher .....	4	White-eyed Vireo .....	2
Yellow-shafted Flicker .....	126	Bell's Vireo .....	4
Pileated Woodpecker .....	3	Yellow-throated Vireo .....	3
Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	30	Solitary Vireo .....	19
Red-headed Woodpecker .....	28		

Red-eyed Vireo .....	122	Baltimore Oriole .....	57
Philadelphia Vireo .....	12	Rusty Blackbird .....	12
Warbling Vireo .....	16	Brewer's Blackbird .....	1
Black-and-white Warbler .....	33	Common Grackle .....	306
Prothonotary Warbler .....	3	Brown-headed Cowbird .....	61
Golden-winged Warbler .....	3	Scarlet Tanager .....	8
Blue-winged Warbler .....	6	Summer Tanager .....	1
Tennessee Warbler .....	246	Cardinal .....	145
Orange-crowned Warbler .....	32	Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	172
Nashville Warbler .....	140	Blue Grosbeak .....	13
Yellow Warbler .....	16	Indigo Bunting .....	95
Magnolia Warbler .....	66	Dickcissel .....	9
Cape May Warbler .....	1	Purple Finch .....	233
Myrtle Warbler .....	121	Common Redpoll .....	1
Black-throated Green Warb.....	3	Pine Siskin .....	8
Blackburnian Warbler .....	5	American Goldfinch .....	283
Chestnut-sided Warbler .....	32	White-winged Crossbill .....	2
Bay-breasted Warbler .....	9	Rufous-sided Towhee .....	23
Blackpoll Warbler .....	13	Grasshopper Sparrow .....	7
Pine Warbler .....	1	Le Conte's Sparrow .....	2
Palm Warbler .....	3	Henslow's Sparrow .....	6
Ovenbird .....	124	Vesper Sparrow .....	9
Northern Waterthrush .....	100	Lark Sparrow .....	7
Louisiana Waterthrush .....	3	Slate-colored Junco .....	1717
Kentucky Warbler .....	4	Tree Sparrow .....	299
Connecticut Warbler .....	5	Chipping Sparrow .....	35
Mourning Warbler .....	23	Field Sparrow .....	56
Yellowthroat .....	83	Harris' Sparrow .....	137
Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2	White-crowned Sparrow .....	12
Wilson's Warbler .....	54	White-throated Sparrow .....	816
Canada Warbler .....	26	Fox Sparrow .....	279
American Redstart .....	49	Lincoln's Sparrow .....	117
House Sparrow .....	12	Swamp Sparrow .....	54
Bobolink .....	3	Song Sparrow .....	237
Eastern Meadowlark .....	8		
Western Meadowlark .....	17		
Yellow-headed Blackbird .....	34		
Red-winged Blackbird .....	274		
Orchard Oriole .....	8		
		Total individuals .....	20,423
		Total species .....	181

# PAGES FROM YESTERDAY: THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN BUCHANAN COUNTY, IOWA\*

FRED J. PIERCE

WINTHROP, IOWA

Pioneer life in Buchanan County without doubt had many rough spots and there were privations and troubles aplenty. But it had its compensations. For example, wild game was there in abundance and close at hand. Procuring it was an easy matter requiring only a little time.

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Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkeys were residents of timber land. They were wary birds and it took careful stalking and a good shot to bring them down.

Another bird, the Prairie Chicken, lived in large numbers in the rolling grass land which covered much of Buchanan County's surface. This bird was everybody's favorite, for it was so abundant and easily taken. The long, waving prairie grass was the Prairie Chickens' natural home, and there they made their nests and reared their young. Even in the long and severe winters, their grassy abode enabled them to cope with the elements. For they burrowed into the matted growth and had a snug retreat beneath the snow. Some of these tunnels in the grass would reach a distance of 10 feet.

Shooting Prairie Chickens was a favorite sport with residents of the county, while the hunters seemed to include persons of all ages and both farmers and town dwellers. A Buchanan County newspaper of Dec. 22, 1863, tells of the enormous amount of dead Prairie Chickens which were coming into Independence. One man sold \$350 worth in a day, and sales of \$50 to \$100 were of frequent occurrence.

It was not unusual to see three and four wagonloads of Prairie Chickens and Quail on the streets in one day. The shipping of Prairie Chickens had assumed sizable proportions, with some Independence stores piled high with them, preparatory to shipping east. The paper does not state how the birds were killed, but it may be presumed that they had been both shot and trapped for market.

Another issue of the newspaper stated that the county's best shooter had bagged 157 "chickens" in a day with 150 shots. Still another note tells of four hunters who left Independence at 3 p.m. one day, drove 15 miles and returned the next evening with 337 Prairie Chickens—certainly a record for 13 hours or less.

Prairie Chicken hunting contests, in which scores of hunters over the county competed for honors, were staged frequently with a great deal of friendly rivalry and pleasure for all concerned. Another sport, in which the birds did not get a sporting chance was to kick out the snow burrows and kill the helpless birds when they were found at the end of the tunnels.

Trapping the chickens became a major occupation for farmers. It apparently reached a high in the 1870's and then tapered off. There was a good market, which the farmer availed himself of during the winter months when he had plenty of time. The birds were easily trapped when food was scarce, while the farmer could turn his spare time into needed dollars. If he had several sons, a goodly number of traps were constructed and set at vantage points, and trapping operations went along well with the farm chores. Enthusiasm ran high with trapping furnishing current gossip for the farm folk. The usual greeting was, "Well, how many 'chickens' did you get today?"

The traps were very simple in working principle, but a good deal of time was required to make a successful trap. A large box made of laths, wider at the bottom than at top, was the common type—about two feet high, three feet wide, and four to six feet long. A balanced trapdoor, which dropped the victims into the trap, filled a square hole in the top. Across the center of the trap were sharpened sticks on which were pushed ears of corn — the bait.

The corn seldom failed to induce the birds to hop upon the box and step on the trapdoor in their attempt to reach the corn. The door dropped them inside. It was weighted with a stick of wood so that it always came back to its original position. Some ambitious trappers made their boxes with two

trapdoors and had their birds entering from both sides. The traps were tested with domestic chickens before they were taken out. If properly constructed, they would be full of barnyard hens in no time. This suggests that the wild bird was not much smarter than the domestic breed.

To help funnel the Prairie Chickens into the trap, a rough enclosure with one end open was often built around it. The enclosure was made from tall willow poles or brush. Sometimes buckwheat was sown at selected spots in the fall so that when trapping began later the areas would be doubly attractive.

A short time after the trap was set, a flock of Prairie Chickens would be seen flying toward it. Upon sighting the corn bait, a few would venture in. These acted as decoys and soon a steady stream would be going in. Panic often prevailed when the trap became crowded. The birds would run around inside the cage and beat against the sides, injuring their necks and wings so that they were bleeding profusely. Soon came the exciting part, for they were hard to catch and hold. They had an unbelievable amount of strength in their wings and many would fly out of a man's clutch in spite of his best efforts to hold them.

After the birds were killed, the necks were broken and folded under the wing; in this position (they were not dressed) they were frozen and then compactly placed in barrels, ready for shipping. They brought 25c each on the market, and a limited amount was also taken by local hotels at this price.

Before long the ranks of wild chickens became thin. Many factors contributed to their decline. Extensive breaking of the virgin prairie destroyed their natural habitat while the farmers' crop land did not provide a suitable substitute. The advent of the barbed-wire fence — even telegraph wires — proved to be a deadly killer. The birds flew low and swiftly, unable to veer away from the wires. Thousands were killed; farmers reported seeing many of their bodies hanging on the fences. Mowing machines killed countless others which tried to nest in the hay lands. Farmers burned off large sections of prairie land in the spring after the birds began nesting — an agricultural practice that destroyed vast numbers of eggs and probably young birds. It was said that after these fires, eggs could be gathered up by bushels.

The "booming" of the Prairie Chicken cocks (made by inflating air sacs on the side of the head) was a wonderful sound on spring mornings. Their booming and fighting ground was a knoll or rise on the prairie. Two old males would spring into the air and fly at each other at full speed; they crashed to the ground then repeated the tilt. It was part of the mating antics of an interesting bird species that is no longer with us.

## FIELD REPORTS

### FALL MIGRATION

September was the wettest in 30 years with 10 inches of rainfall in Iowa City, while in Des Moines there was measurable precipitation on 15 days with only 37% of possible sunshine. October was quite different with only 1.7 inches of rain in Iowa City and .8 inch, all recorded on four days in Des Moines. November was somewhat warmer than usual with a little more than normal rain. There was no measurable snowfall in Des Moines until 29 November, a record late date.

**Loons, Grebes, Pelicans.** A Common Loon on Lake Nyanza within the city limits of Grinnell for three days in October was unusual. Three Pied-

billed Grebes and a Coot were there also. (MS). A Loon on the Des Moines Impounding Res. on 23 September was three weeks early. Although not a fall item, a Horned Grebe on Goose Lake on 8 June was very late, (JF). There were at least 4 Horned Grebes at Spirit Lake the first week in October. At the same time there were 100 or so Pied-billed present, (DH). There was the best Pied-billed migration in three years in the Rice Lake area, with the peak late in September, (BS). Three large flocks of White Pelicans were seen in the last part of September, (EG).

**Cormorants, Herons, Swans.** At Gavin's Point Dam, S.D. 30-40 Double-crested Cormorants were observed on 22-24 October, (DH). There were about 50 Great Blue Herons at Dunbar Slough on 24 August, (JF), but only an occasional single bird was observed, (DG). A Little Blue Heron was seen on 31 August, (HM). On 5 September 18 Common Egrets were seen, (FK); and they continue to be up in numbers with 5-10 on Rice Lake during most of the early Blue-winged Teal season, (BS). An American Bittern at Elk Creek Marsh on 4 November was a late date, (BS). Wm. Felton saw one Whistling Swan along the Missouri River on 18 November, (DH). On the same and the following day Fred Lesher saw swans at Lock & Dam 9 on the Mississippi, (DP).

**Geese, Ducks.** Reports on the goose flight suggest that birds were seen in good numbers and over a rather extended period. A good migration starting 24 September, (GB); Canadas migrated early, Blues and Snows were seen for a month starting 25 September, (EG); lots of geese the latter part of September and early October, (JK); the main flight early in October was on schedule, four or five flocks of 30-50 seen by Wm. Felton on 18 November, and Blues and Snows and one small flock of Hutchin's observed by Warren Jensen on the same day, (DH); 250 over Ames on 25 September, (DP), and 25 Canadas on 1 November, (RK); a large migration of geese, (HM). A lone Canada, seemingly uninjured, was at the Des Moines Res. on 19 and 20 December. Comments on the duck migration varied, the most favorable report coming from Iowa City where the Reservoir was said to be 20 feet above normal stage. During the first week of November there were 20-30,000 ducks present, mostly Mallards and Pintails but with unusually large numbers of Ring-necked, and a few of other species, (FK). Some other reports: very few ducks, (HM); not many ducks, (JK); scarce, one flock all fall and practically none on the local lake, (DG); good flocks of Mallards since 1 to 20 November, (DH); Mallards reported down slightly by the Fish and Wildlife Service, but seemed numerous, (RK). At Des Moines the Mallard migration was somewhat later than usual, but probably more than in recent years. A fair migration of Scaup, Ring-necked, American Widgeon and Gadwall took place earlier. Black Ducks, seen as early as 2 August, (HM). Green-winged Teal, good numbers with big flights late in October. Blue-winged Teal, early, but not in expected numbers. Redhead, small numbers. Canvasback, also small numbers, (DH). Ruddy, several pairs nested at Goose Lake, and young seen, (JF). Hooded Mergansers, 6 at Lake Macbride on 14 November, (FK); and 9 at the Des Moines Reservoir on 9 November.

**Vultures, Hawks.** A concentration of about 50 Turkey Vultures near Amber in Jones Co. was observed on 3 October by Fred Pierce. Few Turkey Vultures were seen, but Cooper's and Sharp-shinned were in good numbers, (GB). A good Accipiter migration, (JF). Sharp-shinned about normal, and 7 banded, (PP). Red-tailed: normal numbers in migration, but immatures were rare, (EB); seen almost every day since 26 September with a Krider's on 21 September, (JK); but, only singles seen a few times, (DG). Red-shouldered; seen on many occasions in the general locality, and suspected of



having nested, (HM), but almost no reports in Polk Co. Broad-winged: a good migration, (PK); from 20 to 30 seen on 28 September, (HM); and 30 observed on 25 September by Bob Nickolson, (DH). No mention was made of Swainson's. The only Golden Eagle report was one on 10 October by Russell Hays. A Bald Eagle was seen along the Missouri River on 18 November by Warren Jensen, (DH), and another at L&D #9 on 31 October, (DK). Rough-legged were seen several times in late November by Wm. Felton, and 5 were seen late in October at Gavin's Point Dam, (DH). Between Cedar Falls and Davenport on 31 October 5 were observed, (PP). Marsh: very good flight, (BS); and, seen almost every day since 26 September, (JK); but, none all fall, (RH); and, only about four sightings of a single bird, (DG). Few seen around Des Moines. The only Peregrine report is one on 27 September, (WY). Sparrow: described as in excellent numbers, (EB), and an increase in nesters with a good migration, (JF).

**Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Pheasants.** Three Ruffed Grouse were seen at White Pine Hollow 9 October, (DP). A Prairie Chicken was observed late in November in the Hamburg area, and a pair was seen seven miles north, (EG). Ring-necked Pheasants appear less numerous in the north than in the south: reported few in numbers, (DH); continue down in north-central Iowa, (BS); a flock of 8 quail-sized birds seen on 11 October must have been hatched in September, (EB); but, good numbers, (PP); and, most abundant in several years, (DG).

**Shorebirds.** The only favorable report described the migration as very good, early and continuing, with large concentrations at partially dried up Dunbar Slough, (JF). Other comments: few seen, and those early, (HM); shorebirds poor, (JK); practically none all fall, (DG); very few other than Coots, (GB); almost none seen, poor habitat, (PP), and there were few seen around Des Moines. At least one pair of Common Gallinules nested successfully at Goose Lake, (JF). Two concentrations of Killdeer were 70 at Big Marsh on 6 November seen by Glen Bloomfield, (RH), and 18 seen early in the month, (DG). Only one report of American Golden Plover—8 on 7 October, (JK). Four reports of American Woodcock are unusual, and surprisingly, two are from the western edge of the state, both casualties. One on 3 November flew into a house in the Morningside residential area, (DH), and on the 6th one hit a powerline in Hamburg, (EG). There were two in Ames on 30 October, and two in the Yellow River Forest the following day, (DK). Mrs. Barlow saw from 50 to 70 Common Snipe on 1 November, (RH). Blue Lake on 7 October had 30 Dowitchers, (DH), and there were several fall sightings, (JF). Stilt Sandpipers were seen continuously from 25 July to 12 September at Dunbar Slough, where there was a group of Western Sandpipers on 12 September and a single on 1 October, (JF). A rare Northern Phalarope was found road-killed on 23 September, (EB).

**Gulls, Terns, Cuckoos.** There were extraordinarily good flights of Ring-billed Gulls from mid-September to mid-October, with an estimated 1,000 seen in an hour and a half on one occasion, (BS); a flock of about 100 at Ames on 2 October and several on 27 October were all adults, but there were many adults and immatures at Guttenburg on 10 October, (DP). At Spirit Lake there were hundreds of Ring-billed and Franklin's on 7 and 8 October, (DH). A flock of 17 Forster's Terns went through on 20 October, (EG), and a late Caspian was seen near Parkersburg on 1 November by Glen Bloomfield, (RH). Two late cuckoos were reported; a Yellow-billed on 19 October, (HM), and a Black-billed on 9 October at White Pine Hollow, (DP).

**Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds.** None of the winter owls has been reported from Iowa City or Des Moines, but an early Short-eared was

at Goose Lake on 29 August, (JF) and another was seen on 24 October, (JK). There was the most noticeable migration of Nighthawks in three years, (BS), and a heavy flight was seen between six and seven a.m. on 30 August; between 200 and 300 were observed, (WY). More than 100 Chimney Swifts were seen on 1 October, and the last on 5 October, (WY). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in very good numbers, more than in 1964, (GB).

**Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows.** Yellow-shafted Flickers were seen in good flocks, (GB), and considered exceptionally numerous in Des Moines. On 10 October 8 or 9 Red-bellied were seen in a stretch of a quarter of a mile, (SA). A pair of Pileated was seen in White Pine Hollow 9 October, (DP). The last Red-headed was seen on 11 September, (WY), and there seemed none left in Des Moines after the middle of the month. There was a poor flight of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, (PP). Hairy Woodpeckers were nowhere to be found, (BS). It was a good Empidonax year with 22 Yellow-bellied, 5 Acadian, 13 Traill's, and 37 Least Flycatchers banded, (PP). There was a good migration of Olive-sided, (JF). There were huge flocks of Bank Swallows at the Coralville Reservoir in the first week of September, and many Tree Swallows the last half of October, (FK). Most swallows left early; the last Cliff seen 11 September, Purple Martins and Bank Swallows the same day, and Barn no later than the 25th, (WY).

**Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens.** What appeared to be a migration of Tufted Titmice was noticed on 2 October, (JK). In comparison with last year the numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches might also be called an invasion; reports are too numerous to mention. Unlike last year the Brown Creepers appear numerous, (RK); 63 banded, (PP); good numbers, (GB); 1 or 2 on every tree on 14 October, (EG). A welcome report is that of a Carolina Wren trapped on 10 November, her first record for the county, (GB). Both Long- and Short-billed Wrens were at Rice Lake as late as 17 October, (BS).

**Mimics, Thrushes.** Catbirds in abundance, (GB). Where mentioned Robins were numerous: good flocks most of September and October, (GB); more than 100 seen on 8 November, (EG); seen in large numbers over an extended period in Des Moines, with 75 observed on 7 November by Mrs. Peasley. Hermit Thrushes: more than usual, (HM); 4 with a possible fifth at the Ledges on 18 October, (WHB); 5 banded 1 October, (PP); and 1 near Parkersburg as late as 1 November, (RH). Bluebirds: 65 were counted on 16 October, (RH); overhead every day most of September and October, the most seen in nine years and these were not in the area of the nesting boxes, (GB).

**Kinglets, Pipits, Waxwings.** Golden-crowned: a few more than usual, (EB); a good year, 143 banded with 15 in one day, (PP); the earliest arrival in 40 years with 10 seen on 27 September, (WY); another early one on the same day, (JF). Ruby-crowned: a good many, (EB); lots, (HM); evidently numerous, 48 banded on 22 October, (PP); a heavy flight on 28 September when at least 20 were seen. Observations continued until 16 October, (WY). Water Pipits first appeared 28 October, a dozen following the plow for ten days, (DG); 6 observed 26 September, (MB); and the same number on 9 October, (RH). Cedar Waxwings were common all fall and thought up from last year, (RK, DP).

**Vireos, Warblers.** Opinions regarding vireos differed, varying from good migration, (JF), and better than last year but far from 1963, (WY), to, very poor, (JK), and very few other than Solitary, (WHB). This last was still at Castalia on 23 October, (DK), and thought to have had a good year, (PP). A



late Red-eyed was seen on 10 October, (PP). There is closer agreement regarding the warblers; not many except Myrtles, (GB, HM); few other than Myrtles, (EG); very poor except Myrtles, (JK); there were thought to be only a couple of unimportant waves with Nashville and Tennessee about normal, but few others than Myrtles, (WHB). Tennessee was more common than usual with the peak on 28 September, (WY). A late observation was on 14 October, (PP). Orange-crowned was the commonest species seen, (WY). Nashville was seen as late as 14 October, (PP). Yellow was scarce at Des Moines; again rare with only three seen and the last on 28 September, the latest ever, (WY). Another on 30 September was even later, (PP). Myrtles: differences of opinion ranging from: lots, (HP); an invasion on 11 October, (EG); and lots, and seen until 24 October, (PL); to, numbers way down, (PP), and, again scarce, (WY). Black-throated Green were thought many, (JF). An early Bay-breasted was on 30 August, (WY). A positive identification of the Pine was made 28 September, (EB). Wilson's were very rare, (WY). Canada and Redstart were many, (JF). A late Redstart was seen 29 September, (PP).

**Icterids, Finches.** Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds and Grackles were seen by the thousands, especially at Spirit Lake on 7 and 8 October, (DH). Large and almost continuous flights of blackbirds and Grackles were noticed east of Chariton for a period of four to six weeks. The birds roosted in Red Haw State Park, (HM). Both orioles left early, the Orchard last seen on 23 August, and the Baltimore 10 September, (WY). Rusty Blackbirds were way up over last year, (BS). Brewer's reports are from the western and central parts: about 50 on 2 October, (WY); a small flock the end of October, (JF); 7 on 3 and 4 November which never mixed with other blackbirds, (DG); observed 15-16 October and a single on 22 November, (JK). Grackles: a few flocks, but nothing like in past years, (GB). The sparrow migration was thought good and long, (JK), but, sparrows were fewer due perhaps to much good area being under water, (FK). A female Blue Grosbeak was found dead 4 October, (SA). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were not seen after 14 September, (WY). On 16 October 20 Evening Grosbeaks were seen, (RH), and one was at a feeder on 15 November, (FK). An early Purple Finch was one on 15 September, (JF); more than ever before, (RH); lots every time out, (HM); good numbers, (PP); but, few compared with other years, (WHB). The only Pine Grosbeak was one on 5 November, (PK). Common Redpolls are reported; one on 23 October, (RH), and 2 dozen on 6 November in the Elk Creek area, (BS). Several sightings of as many as 20 at Des Moines in November. Pine Siskins are reported from a number of widely scattered areas and described as very common by several. A nest of Goldfinch fledglings was found on 19 September, a rather late date, (HM). A White-winged Crossbill was netted 26 October, (MB); a flock of 7 was found in Waterworks Park on Thanksgiving by Elizabeth Peck, and one was seen a few days later in the yard of Mrs. Brooke. A late Grasshopper Sparrow was seen 21 October, (PP). Harris' are reported as numerous by many. No reports are received on White-crowned, and 2 immatures were only ones seen, (WHB). White-throats were thought to be numerous, (GB, HP). Fox were thought to be average to up a bit by all reporters. Two reports on Lapland Longspurs: 500 at the end of October, (JF), and first seen in soybean stubble on 28 October, with about 200 observed for a week, (DG). Snow Bunting: 2 at Gavin's Point Dam 22-24 October, (DH); a flock photographed on 29 October, (FK); 20 on 6 November at Elk Creek Marsh, (BS); and 1 near Des Moines seen by Elizabeth Peck early in November.

#### WINTER SEASON

December was warm with temperatures 10° above normal with some excess precipitation, practically all as rain. Most waters were open the greater



part of the month. January was warm the first week, then becoming colder with the last week being extremely cold. The 29th was the coldest in 50 years in the central part. Little snow fell during the month.

Comments on this season should be read in conjunction with the Christmas census reports and accompanying remarks. Some opinions: open winter and pleasant weather, but feeders report fewer birds of all kinds. Some say "No birds, not even (House) sparrows." (DH). Bird populations thin—no wintering hawks or owls, (FK). Number of species seems down in Decorah area and average in Story Co., (DP). Mild weather in November and December kept many birds from going farther south, (RK).

**Herons, Geese, Ducks.** A Great Blue Heron was seen on the open river on 4 January, (PK). A Canada Goose was over Iowa Falls on 2 January, (DP). Most of the reports of ducks concerned the Mallard: thousands and thousands milling around between Hamburg and Percival late in January, (EG); 40 at Elk Creek as late as 28 December, (RK); 100-200 seen frequently until 15 December, (DG); 200 at Brown Slough, (HM). Scaups at Montrose numbered between 2-3000 on Christmas Day, (PL). As many as 100 Common Goldeneyes were on the Missouri River, and a few Common Mergansers were seen occasionally, (DH).

**Hawks.** All kinds very scarce, (KL); very few observed in late November due to their taking cover in brush and timber, but normal numbers could be found by searching, (DP). The Red-tailed is one of the most commonly mentioned species: few scattered reports, (DH); only a few, (FK); only one observation, (GB); seem to be down, (DK); half as many as in the past, (KL); usual number, (DG); few more than usual, (EB); and, 1-2 almost daily, (JK). No improvement is noticed in the situation of the Red-shouldered: saw none all winter, (DK); one in the Decorah area on 29 November, (DP); one seen several times near Des Moines; despite very good habitat along the Mississippi at Clinton and near New Boston they are certainly down, (PP). Rough-legged: fewer sighted than in past years, (DH); below normal, (EB); and, none seen this winter, (DG). A Bald Eagle was killed near Burlington after "attacking" a hunter, (PL). Bald Eagles: about the same as last year, (PL); immatures seem down, (PP); several observations at Arsenal Island, Princeton, Iowa, Hampton, Ill. and one at Duck Creek Park which is about a mile from the river, (NW). Marsh Hawks seem down, (PP). Sparrow Hawks: thought common in both areas, (DP); lots, (PP); but, occasional, (FK); few wintering, (EB); and, none, (GB); with one staying around the barnyard, (JK).

**Bobwhite, Pheasants, Turkeys.** Bobwhite were thought scarce around Sioux City with only two covies on one farm, (DH); but two good covies found after several years with almost none, (EB); and, plentiful, (KL). Pheasants: numbers down considerably, (DH); although, can be found in good numbers in certain areas, (RK); and, good stock left—20 visible in field while typing the report, (EB). Turkeys are reported as moving up the Upper Iowa River from the Lansing area, and now are found about seven miles east of Decorah, (DP).

**Shorebirds, Gulls, Doves.** A King Rail was found at Goose Lake on 9 January when the temperature had been -14° a day earlier, (JF). A Killdeer and 4 Snipe were seen on 15 January, (FK); the usual Killdeer but no Snipe at Decorah, (DP). Gulls stayed in some numbers until 15 January when the Mississippi froze over, (PL). A few Ring-billed were seen occasionally, probably from Gavin's Point Dam, (DH). Some Mourning Doves are wintering, but except where 25 are visiting a feeder daily, (KL), numbers are very few, (PK, DH, FK, DP).

**Owls, Kingfishers.** Not many winter-visitant owls are present this year: one Snowy was seen for two hours on 18 December, (see longer note) (DG); a Long-eared was observed on 16 January, (HM); and 2 are wintering north of Ames, (MS). Short-eared were fairly numerous last year: but are few, (EB); one or two hunting at night with full moon near Dysart on Feb. 4 (PP); and the only other mention is of 2 at New Hartford seen by the Barlow's, (RH). A Saw-whet is in the same area for the third year, (RK, MS). Kingfishers are said to be common at Decorah, (DP).

**Woodpeckers, Larks.** A male Red-shafted Flicker has been visiting several feeders, (CH). Pileated are seen regularly on Credit Island, (PP). Several Red-headed seen in late December were considered unusual, (RK), but none has been reported in Des Moines where there are frequently some. Horned Larks are evidently down: not nearly as many as last year, (DH); seem fewer than usual, (DP); and scarce around Des Moines.

**Jays, Crows, Chickadees, Titmice, Nuthatches, Creepers.** Blue Jays are thought up, (KL). Crows are plentiful, (KL), but only a few scattered individuals seen with no known roost, (DH). A partial albino was noticed among a hundred normally colored birds near Bettendorf, (NW). Chickadees: opinions vary from: appear fewer, (DH), to, seem more than ordinary, (JK), and, very abundant, (KL). Titmice are common in Decorah, (DP). White-breasted Nuthatches: numbers seem down, (DH), but, plentiful, (KL). Red-breasted Nuthatches are generally thought more numerous than usual with Decorah being the only point of scarcity, (DP). Brown Creepers: seem entirely absent, (KL), with very few reports, (DH), and common in Ames but scarce at Decorah, (DP).

**Mimies, Thrushes, Kinglets.** Only two Mockingbird items, one east of Iowa City, (FK), and another in Madison Co. just south of the Des Moines Impounding Res. by Joe Kennedy. A Brown Thrasher wintering at Sioux City may be injured, (DH). One or two Robins are reported, (PK, RH, FK, WHB), but none this winter, (KL). A few Golden-crowned Kinglets wintering, (EB), one on 10 January for the only record, (HM), and common at Ames but scarce at Decorah, (DP).

**Waxwings, Shrikes, Warblers.** Two Bohemian Waxwings were seen several times with a small flock of Cedars, (DB). Cedars are seen regularly, another good year, (RK), but all other reports say none seen, (PK, DH, KL, JK). A Northern Shrike was seen at Grundy Center by Glenn Bloomfield, (RH), but very few Loggerhead sighted, (KL). An Orange-crowned Warbler feeding in the yard during the first three weeks in December is reported by Mrs. Leroy Hansen of Lowden, (PP).

**Icterids, Finches.** Only one flock of meadowlarks and few singles have been seen around Sioux City, and Des Moines reports are few. Occasional Grackles have been seen, (PK, PL, RK, RH). No flocks of Evening Grosbeaks have been seen, but scattered observations, usually at feeders, at Burlington, Decorah, Des Moines and Jesup. Not many mentioned Purple Finches: two reports of 6 or 8, (DH) 1 or 2 at feeders, (FK), numerous since early winter, and still more common than usual, (HM); but probably fewer at Des Moines, although Mrs. Peasley has been feeding a flock of 40 or more. Redpolls, which have staged somewhat of an invasion have been missing at Sioux City. Pine Siskins were seen; one small flock, (DH), and several flocks in December, (RK). Red Crossbills were seen at Ames, 5 on 19 November, (DP). White-winged, first seen 23 December, (RK), and 3 on 3 December, (RH). Juncos: seem reduced or more scattered, (DH); appeared in numbers in mid-January,

(EB); think up from last year, (GB). Tree Sparrows: many more than last year, (GB), and a good population in Des Moines. A single White-throated Sparrow was seen at Credit Island 30 January (PP). Lapland Longspurs: only 1 seen, (EB); 2-400 until Thanksgiving, absent until 15 January, then 1-200 could be seen, (DG).

**Contributors:** Susan Atwell, Ft. Dodge; Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Des Moines; Eldon Bryant, Akron. Myrle Burk, Waterloo. John Faaborg, Jefferson; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Edwin Getscher, Hamburg; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Clarise Hewitt, Jesup; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Richard Knight, Ames; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Castalia; Keith Layton, Oskaloosa; Peter Lowther, Burlington; Howard McKinley, Russell; Mrs. Helen Peasley, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Jr., Davenport; Don Peterson, Ames and Decorah; Mildred Stewart, Grinnell; Barton Sutter, Hanlonton; Myron Swenson, Ames; Norman C. Ward, Jr., Ames; William Youngworth, Sioux City. WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, 50312.

## GENERAL NOTES

**Snowy Owl at Lamoni.**—We observed a Snowy Owl here for some time on the afternoon of Dec. 18, 1965. It was perched on a utility pole and flew when we came abreast of it in the pick-up truck. It perched again on a pole farther down the road and a quarter of a mile away from our house. We kept it under observation from that distance for over an hour. During that time 6 or 8 autos went right past it without the bird flying. We got all our junior bird watchers in the pick-up for another close up attempt. It flushed again at about 50 feet and we got a fine view of it, heading west and out of sight. This owl had a slight yellowish or very light brownish tinge instead of being pure white in color. Its flight was strong and high, being more like that of a Red-tailed Hawk than that of a Great Horned Owl. J. DONALD GILLASPEY, Rt. 1, Lamoni.

**Iowa's Winter Marsh.**—As Paul Errington once stated, the Iowa marshes are among the few remaining natural areas in the state. Though no longer numerous, there are still several fine marshes in Iowa.

To many people, myself included, the word "marsh" brings visions of beautiful sunsets, torrents of birds, a blue-bird day in the fall, and many equally stirring sights and sounds. Needless to say, these people find the marsh exciting at any time or season. Winter, though not as teeming with life as spring, nor as terribly interesting as summer, nor mellow as fall, leaves the marsh visitor with a lasting appreciation of solitude.

A feeling of solitude definitely is there, but to say there is little wildlife in a winter marsh would be a false statement. Walking and observing as you go, the marsh visitor is treated to many excellent views of nature in action; prints in the snow being her chief storybook.

The leaping bounds of a mink as he hunts along the shore and the abrupt stop as he smells game are clearly printed. The straight line of fox tracks cutting over a hill, being joined with lengthening rabbit tracks and then a speck of blood, all show life in its ceaseless and marvelous struggle for existence.

But, not all is to be seen in snow-traced tracks. The sudden startle of seeing, right to your face, a sitting Long-eared Owl in a dense willow thicket leaves you with a long-to-be-remembered picture. Or the tireless soaring of



**MUSKRAT**

Sketch by Robert Knight

a Red-tailed Hawk high overhead and the frantic leaping of a Fox Squirrel for timber remind you that they to must live and die. These observations give the winter visitor more than happy memories of the marsh. By seeing and, most important of all, by understanding them, one begins to sense something of nature's interwoven and complex communities. This understanding of how things work in the marsh, or prairie, or woods is important in the proper use and management of the area.

The marsh, in addition to offering sights, can also leave its visitor with certain feelings. Feelings of the naturalness of the area. That glacial hills and marshland are still important and can still satisfy a person's inner longings of wildness. The feelings that sunsets and cold windy days are still worth having in the marsh. That cornfields and fall plowed fields have not yet dominated man, nor satisfied man's need for natural places. Aside from trappers and a few hunters its untrampled snow is marked only by the prowling fox, or by the occasional homeless, or exploring, or starving muskrat. The marsh can offer the civilized visitor sights and feelings still important to his well being and happiness. It can still awaken man's long silenced primitive chords with its solitude and wildness and naturalness. May the marsh ever have this quality, and man the chance to enjoy it. RICHARD KNIGHT, 332 Westwood Dr., Ames.

**The Connecticut Warbler as a Fall Migrant at Sioux City.**—Most source books on North American ornithology give the fall migration route of the Connecticut Warbler as easterly of the Mississippi River valley and then south to the West Indies. This is probably true of the main fall flight, but there is also a flight down the Missouri River valley. Since 1951, this observer has been able to make some intensive migration studies in a confined area with some interesting results, not only on the above mentioned species, but on many others.

On September 2, 1951, a male Connecticut Warbler was observed about the garden. The next day the same bird or another spent the day much in the

same fashion feeding about the lily pond, rock garden and other areas. Our next observation was on September 4, 1954, when again a male Connecticut Warbler visited our garden. On September 7, 1955, a male Connecticut Warbler fed in our rear yard part of the day. Again on September 10th, a similar bird was observed feeding in the garden. The fifth record was made on the morning of September 20, 1957. This male warbler was under observation for twenty minutes with the closest approach about fifteen feet.

The latest observations were made on September 26, 1965. Early in the morning of this day I glassed the rear yard and saw what looked like a buffy female of the year with a distinct full eye-ring. I put this record down with a question mark, until 2 p.m., when I saw a fine male Connecticut Warbler. This latter bird was very accommodating and for the next three and one half hours fed in and along a long mulberry hedge. From time to time he would leave the safety of the hedge and forage among various perennial plants, such as pogonia, phlox, monarda, and orpine. During these minutes Mrs. Youngworth and I looked at him very closely noting the even gray hood and the full white eye-ring. Our observations were made from distances of fifteen to about thirty feet during the above mentioned time period.

My conclusions are that after a period of fourteen years which includes the above records, that the Connecticut Warbler has probably always been a regular, but rather rare fall migrant down the Missouri River valley. During migration this large warbler remains near the ground in dense foliage and is very quiet. As E. H. Forbush writes in the *Birds of Massachusetts*, "It is generally so secretive that its habits and food are little known." It is a warbler then which one is at best fortunate to see once in several years and then only after diligent bird watching. WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH, 3119 E. 2nd Street, Sioux City.

**Burrowing Owls at Sioux City Airport.**—Quite by accident, a nest of Burrowing Owls was discovered at the Sioux City Municipal Airport this summer. While watching the Air Show on July 25, 1965, with his family and friends, George Marsh was enjoying a close-up view through his binoculars of the pilots landing their Thunder Jets when suddenly an owl appeared in his field of vision. He followed the flight of the owl and saw it land at the edge of a burrow between the two north and south landing strips where there were two more owls. After noting their size and shape and then seeing two of the owls pop into the burrow, he was certain that he had discovered a colony of Burrowing Owls. Subsequently, an investigative trip was made by four Sioux City Bird Club members, with the official sanction of the airport manager. We were provided with a chauffeured city vehicle and taken right to the nesting area of the owls which we were told was an abandoned badger hole. The three owls, two brown and one gray, were first observed through binoculars from a distance. As we approached the burrow on foot, the owls flew a short distance away to another burrow which from appearances had been used less frequently than the first. Their food at the time appeared to consist mostly of grasshoppers which they jumped up or flew a short distance and caught on the wing. Later examination of a pellet picked up at the site proved this to be substantially true. The trip included a visit to a former site but it had been abandoned probably because of the proximity to a drag racing strip. Other areas of the airport were visited but no other burrows were found. Our chauffeur, the grounds foreman, said the birds were disturbed by humans only when the grass was mowed (every 3 weeks). He has seen eight individuals and this is the third year of their residence. MRS. DARRELL M. HANNA, 1026 S. Alice, Sioux City.

**An Eastern Kingbird Observance.**—The afternoon of Aug. 1, 1965, was hot and dry. I was walking the weedy banks of Broken Kettle Creek hoping to find something of interest. I had Blue Grosbeaks in mind but my attention was attracted to three Eastern Kingbirds catching insects from the surface of a pool of still water. They would perch on poolside weeds and when ready would fly to the surface of the water and splash gently as they snapped up the selected insect and then return to a perch, shake out the wet feathers on their underparts and repeat the performance.

I tried to approach close enough to see exactly what insects they were catching but they flew downstream when I was about fifty feet away. A close check of the surface showed many blue damselflies, a few water striders, and a few small grasshoppers who had jumped unwisely. Which were their prey I could not be sure. ELDON BRYANT, R.R. #1, Akron.

**My Black-headed Grosbeak Returns** — On July 26, 1958, I banded an adult male Black-headed Grosbeak, in Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. Each summer since then this grosbeak has returned to my trap.

"Scenic Bird" as we call him is a great singer. His favorite perch is in a ponderosa pine tree near my cabin window. He comes early in the morning and sings his song which sounds like "Scenic bird, scenic bird."

In 1962, I found his nest in the mountain birches down near the stream. I knew it was he, for he is the only grosbeak I have banded on the left leg. His mate was banded, too. This nest was photographed by several visitors to the park. The baby birds were later brought to my feeding station by the parents and I banded them, too.

Now, I am wondering if this grosbeak will return this summer, 1964, when I return to the park in June. He winters somewhere south of the border — perhaps in Mexico or Central America. — MRS. W. C. DeLONG, Box 398, Shenandoah.

**Our Friend The Grackle** — Could it be possible? Yes, it was. Once again Dad's friend was back, following him around, waiting for the hand-out. The friend was a grackle and the hand-out was a peanut.

This was last summer, 1964, and the third summer for the grackle. It all started some years ago with the squirrels. John, our next door neighbor, and Dad had kept feeding the squirrels until they would eat out of their hands and with John they would sit on his shoulder or knees to be fed. Not only would Dad and John feed the squirrels but would throw out peanuts to the birds.

Dad would stand patiently with a peanut in his hand trying to coax the birds to come and get the peanut. He would throw one close to him and then closer. Finally one of the birds swooped down and took a peanut out of his hand. It was a grackle. Dad would sit on the back porch and the grackle would come to the ledge and perch waiting for the food. I finally worked up my nerve so that I could hold a peanut out to him. This was quite a feat as I have a phobia against everything that flies. Each year we wondered if the grackle would return and each year he had.

It is spring again but Dad is no longer with us. The other day I put feed out for the birds and this one grackle didn't scare like the others. Mother said she was sure it was the same one for he would fly to the porch ledge and sit, still cautious, waiting for the right person, Dad, to open the screen door and appear with a peanut, re-newing the friendship. We hope to carry on that friendship this summer. — MARIAN SPERRY, Willmar, Minnesota.



## OBITUARY

## CLARENCE WALKER ROBERTSON

A long time I.O.U. member, Dr. C. W. Robertson, passed away on January 4, 1966, at the age of 85. He was born at Waterloo on October 6, 1880, the son of Frederick W. and Edna Walker Robertson. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1907, President of his senior class in the college of Dentistry. Dr. Robertson married Jeanne Manson, who died in 1930. He retired from dentistry in 1941 and joined the I.O.U. in 1947. Survivors include two sons, Bruce M. of Akron, Ohio and James D. of Los Angeles, five grandchildren and one great-grandson. ed.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior.**—Paul A. Johnsgard—Cornell University Press, Ithaca—378 p., over 100 p. of photographs and drawings—1965—cloth—\$10.00.

For the first time one volume brings together a summary of what is currently known about waterfowl behavior. This book delves deeper into the subject than the average birdwatcher would probably wish to go. However, the importance of behavior in the study of taxonomy and evolutionary relationships has been demonstrated to be of increasing significance. This inventory of behavior is based primarily on the observations of captive specimens and covers the vast majority of species in the family. After a brief introduction the author considers individual species illustrating basic postures and movements, also comparing variation in behavior with differences in anatomy. The stress is on behavior forms which have a special taxonomic significance.

This book is a good background text on behavior in general as it covers a group showing much specialized courtship and reproductive behavior. Serious students who regularly read the major ornithological journals will enrich their knowledge of this subject greatly with this volume. College libraries will do well to acquire this book for the use of students. ed.

**The Birds of Kentucky.**—Robert M. Mengel—Ornithological Monograph No. 3, American Ornithologists Union, Lawrence—581 p., 4 color plates, 54 sketches, maps and statistical tables—1965—cloth—\$10.00 (\$8.00 to A.O.U. members).

This volume is a very well written resume of the birds of a nearby state. The species accounts are arranged by season with a general statement and specific dates of early and late records. A complete list of specimens is included. The introduction provides some fine reading. It includes a description of the physiography, soils, climate, and vegetation; the avifaunal regions and summary of the distribution of breeding birds; recent changes in avifauna; distribution in relation to vegetational stages and disturbance, forest type, and physiography; systems of expressing bird distribution; geographical variation in breeding birds; origins of the breeding avifauna; and the history of ornithology in the state.

Much of the original work was done about fifteen years ago, but new data through 1960 was included. For those who maintain a collection of state bird books this will make a worthwhile addition. It is also a must for anyone intent upon doing serious field work in Kentucky. ed.

**Birds and Men.**—American Birds in Science, Art, Literature and Conservation 1800-1900—Robert Henry Welker—Reprinted by Atheneum, New York—230 p. with 40 illustrations—1966—paperbound—\$2.45.

An interestingly written historical account of some of the most significant ornithologists of the last century. Among those discussed in detail are Wilson, Audubon, Thoreau, Emerson, Burroughs and Whitman. Novice birders will find this book a wealth of background on ornithology. This material is usually learned only by gleaning many sources over a long period of time. The author has made it all available in one place, and in a readable account. The illustrations show the improvement in bird art and some of the fashions responsible for the destruction of birds. All libraries should include this volume, especially public libraries. ed.

**Birds of Zion National Park and Vicinity.**—Roland H. Wauer and Dennis L. Carter—Zion Natural History Association, Springdale, Utah—92 p., six color plates by Howard Rollin, 17 color photos and one map—1965—paperbound.—\$1.00 plus 10c postage.

An excellent booklet which provides good background material on the birds of the park, when and where they may be found, and the habitats of Zion. This park is composed of a wide variety of habitats, each with its characteristic species. Of special interest is the fact that one of the authors, Dennis Carter, is an I.O.U. member and a former Iowan who many will remember.

The species account are brief and concise. The authors do not attempt to provide a substitute for a field guide but rather a supplement. The color plates depicting the common species of particular habitat areas are very well done. Anyone planning a trip to Utah should certainly obtain a copy. ed.

**The Bird, Its Form and Function.**—C. William Beebe—Reprinted by Dover Publications, New York—496 p. with 374 figures—1965—paperbound—\$2.75.

Another general introduction to birds. This one was originally published in 1906, but the material is basic enough to be correct in the basic substance. It provides a varied approach to the structure of birds. The contents are presented in a very straightforward and concise manner and would make a worthwhile addition to any reference library. ed.

**Bird Studies At Old Cape May.**—An Ornithology of Coastal New Jersey, Two volumes—Witmer Stone—Reprinted by Dover Publications, New York—941 p. with 277 line drawings, 229 photographs and 6 maps—1965—paperbound—\$2.75 each volume.

A reprinting of a work long considered a classic report on a geographic area. The primary field work was done in the period 1920-1937. The main objective of the author is to furnish the reader with an accurate picture of the bird life during that period for comparison with ensuing years. A list of species added between 1937-1963 has been included in this reprint. The introduction describes the habitats and birds associated with them; changes in bird populations over the years; an essay on migration in the area; its outstanding attraction for most birders; a monthly summary and the breeding and winter ranges of New Jersey birds. The species accounts are quite readable and vary greatly in length.

This work is another in the group of books on regions, which many birders collect. It helps form the hard core of such a collection and this reprint is much less expensive than the original, which is difficult to obtain. ed.

**The Bird Watcher's Quiz Book.**—Henry Hill Collins, Jr.—Reprinted by Dover Publications, New York—116 p. with 51 line drawings and 15 maps—1965—paperbound—\$1.00.

A collection of 74 quizzes on birds of varying difficulty. The quizzes are of various types, including fill in blanks, matching, choosing the correct phrase, true and false, and crossword puzzle. Answers are provided at the end of the book. Birders of all abilities will find the quizzes of interest for them in this collection. It can be entertaining for one person or a whole group. ed.

**A Leader's Guide to Nature-Oriented Activities.**—Betty Van Der Smitten and Oswald H. Goering—Iowa State University Press, Ames—210 p. with many drawings—1965—spiral paperbound—\$2.95.

An excellent booklet for teachers, scoutmasters, camp councilors, and recreation directors. It begins by outlining the first steps including organization, programs, and community resources. A wide variety of activities are discussed with details and references included. Other main topics include nature games, outdoor living skills, projects and hobbies, outing sports and program varieties are covered. School librarians and scout offices should have this book available for its wealth of nature activity information. ed.

**The Mallard and The Ring-necked Pheasant.**—John Madson—Conservation Dept., Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, East Alton, Illinois—80 p. and 104 p., each illustrated with photographs and drawings—1960 and 1962—paperbound—\$1.00 each.

Two of Olin's annual game booklets which provide excellent information on these species. The sections into which the material is divided gives a good idea of the contents; life history, parasites and disease, management, hunting, range expansion and relationship to man. Both include fine reference lists. Students of wildlife management and hunters will find these booklets very informative additions to their libraries. Bird watchers will learn much about the species which is not to be found in bird books. ed.

**Principles of Game Management, For the Young Hunters and Careers in Wildlife Conservation.**—John Madson and Ed Kozicky—Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation, East Alton, Illinois—25, 32 and 36 p., with drawings by Bob Hines—1962, 1963, and 1965—paperbound—single copies free, \$.15 each in quantity.

Three small booklets which provide fine material on their subject. **Principles of Game Management** covers hunting regulations, predators control, game refuges, stocking, habitat restoration, and game and habitat analysis. **For the Young Hunter** includes discussions of companions, dogs, equipment, outdoor lore, gunmanship, the individual hunter and a code for young hunters. **Careers in Wildlife Conservation** delves into the duties of the wildlife biologist, the wildlife manager, the conservation officer, wildlife information—education, conservation aides, private enterprise in wildlife, conservation, the top man and schooling.

Many I.O.U. members will remember Dr. Kozicky from his Iowa State University days. He served as president of the union during that period. High school students considering a wildlife career will find all three booklets of great value. ed.

**Tree Finder, Master Tree Finder, and Flower Finder.**—May T. Watts—Nature Study Guild, Berkeley, California—40, 64, and 64p. with many draw-



ings—paperbound—1963, and 1955—\$.25 for **Tree Finder** and \$.50 each for the others.

Pocket guides which provide for rapid identification of trees and flowers. Birders often need to know the correct identity of the vegetation surrounding or contained in a nest or found in a habitat area. Designed on a key basis they seem accurate and easy to use. A fourth publication on California trees is also available. All the guides are indexed. ed.

**Introduction to the Outdoors**—Ben Osborn—Audubon Naturalist Society, Washington, D.C.—34 p.—1965—paperbound—\$1.00.

A collection of ideas, references and basic hints for people beginning to discover nature. The author gives suggestions on preparing for life in the field; learning to identify animals, plants, rocks and other natural objects; reading the landscape; recreational use of inhabited areas; conservation and education. Many references are listed with the addresses of publishers, a detail often omitted.

While this booklet is intended for beginners, the references are classified as essential for the novice or for the advanced student. It should be in all public and school libraries and is to be recommended for scout leaders, teachers, camp counselors and parents of young people interested in nature. ed.

**Animals on the Move**—Ann and Myron Sutton—Rand McNally and Co., Chicago—128 p., 75 drawings and maps—1965—clothbound—\$3.50.

A well written book for young people on the migration of birds, mammals and other animals. The authors discuss ancient beliefs, why animals migrate, how migration began, types of migration, navigation, and other features of migration. Conservation is stressed and bird banding is described.

Any youngster interested in birds would enjoy this book thoroughly. Elementary and junior high school libraries would do well to consider the purchase of this book. Adults will find it interesting and beginning bird students could learn much from it. ed.

**Flying Free**—Reidar Brodtkorb—Rand McNally and Co., Chicago—144 p., 33 photographs—1965—Clothbound—\$2.95.

The story of the authors attempts to rescue and care for eagles in his native Norway. Both Golden Eagles and Sea Eagles are persecuted in Norway and Mr. Brodtkorb meets much opposition in his efforts to protect them. One Golden Eagle was taken to Scotland to be released where it would be protected. A well told story of interest to conservationists and birders. ed.

**Forbush and the Penguins**—Graham Billing—Holt, Rinehart and Winton, Inc., New York—191 p.—1966—clothbound—\$3.95—novel.

A very fine adult novel of a biologist who spends the summer studying Adelie Penguins in Antarctica. The author spent a year and one-half with the Antarctic Division of New Zealand's Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He has a fine feel for the emotions of a man sent to a remote corner of the earth to study birds in virtual solitude. The central character, Forbush, finds many diversions from his routine of gathering scientific data.

Seldom does one encounter a novel which deals with ornithology so closely and yet is a powerful piece of writing. This reviewer has not come upon another novel which does such a creditable job on both facets. ed.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know the Iowa Ornithologists Union now has a Life Membership class? Established at our last convention the cost is \$100.00, which may be paid in four equal installments. Give the Union a boost!

Cover design contributed by Jim Grier, Waterloo, Iowa.

THE NORTH AMERICAN NEST-RECORD  
CARD PROGRAM FOR 1966

The first year of the North American Nest-record Card Program went very well. The Laboratory of Ornithology mailed out over 45,000 cards to individuals and regional centers from Florida to Alaska. We were encouraged at the response; over 23,000 completed cards were received from 700 individuals. We have accumulated over 500 cards each for several species; among these are Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Catbird, Eastern Bluebird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Common Grackle. The Red-winged Blackbird has been selected for a trial run on the computer, and the data from our 2,500 cards on that species are now being punched onto IBM cards.

The principal aim of the program is to accumulate a large amount of data on the breeding biology of birds of the entire North American continent. This data will be stored on IBM cards in a form ready for analysis. This data, once processed, will be available to researchers interested in many areas of avian biology, such as annual and geographical variations in breeding seasons, clutch size, fledging periods, and nesting success. We hope that the program will also play a key role in the study of man's modification of his environment through marsh drainage, urbanization, and the use of pesticides.

We need data from all parts of the country. Observations from city parks and back yards, of the commonest species, are as important as those from remote parts of the continent. We need the co-operation of all competent field observers; please get in touch with your local organization and find out if it is cooperating as a regional center for the distribution of cards. If they are not, you may want to help organize a club effort. Individuals may also obtain cards directly from us. In any case, write for information and cards to North American Nest Record Card Program, Laboratory of Ornithology, 33 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850. Be sure to include your zip code with your return address.